

## SS InTouch – May

A school counselor's brief from the Indiana Department of Education

- **Spring ISTEP+/GQE scores** are scheduled to be delivered to school corporation offices next Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. State results will be released after that time
- **Indiana School Counselor Summer Work Group** – If you have a successful school counseling program or initiative to help students in one of the categories listed below AND you want to earn \$300 this summer (while enjoying the beauty of the IU campus) – consider applying for our Indiana School Counselor Summer Work Group. Any K-12 school counselor, intern, counselor educator or counseling graduate student may apply. The deadline for applying is May 19<sup>th</sup> and the Summer Work Group will meet July 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> at Indiana University.

Those accepted will be asked to develop an online professional development unit for other Indiana school counselors.

To apply, fill out the short, online application at <http://www.counselingsurveys.org/do.php?survey=s108014> that asks you to describe your successful approach to addressing one of these topics:

- Raising student academic achievement,
  - Improving engagement of low motivated students,
  - Reducing behavior referrals or discipline problems (esp. using Functional Behavioral Assessments or Behavior Intervention Plans),
  - Raising the number of students who graduate from high school and/or reducing dropouts,
  - Increasing the percentage of middle school students who enroll in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars,
  - Reducing student stress or anxiety,
  - Helping students with mental health issues,
  - Increasing the number of students who apply for and/or enroll in 2- or 4-year college,
  - Increasing the efficiency of some aspect of your school counseling program, or
  - Other innovative programs that help students succeed or have improved your school counseling program
- **Dates for the 08 Fall School Counselor Regional Workshops** have been tentatively set for October in multiple locations including:
    - October 2 – Marion, Indiana Wesleyan University – tentative
    - October 3 – Fort Wayne, IPFW
    - October 7 – Lafayette, Ivy Tech
    - October 8 – Calumet, Purdue – tentative
    - October 9 – South Bend – tentative
    - October 10 – Indianapolis – North – tentative
    - October 15 – Terre Haute, Indiana State University
    - October 16 – Evansville, Ivy Tech – tentative
    - October 17 – New Albany, IU Southeast
    - October 21 – Indianapolis – South – tentative
    - October 22 – Richmond – tentative
    - October 23 – Greensburg, Southeastern Career Center – tentative
    - October 24 – Bedford area – tentative

Two CRU's or four PGP's will be available at each workshop. More details about workshop topics and the online registration form will be available in August. Other calendar items for next year, including the SSACI financial aid workshops are at

[www.doe.state.in.us/sservices/sc.htm](http://www.doe.state.in.us/sservices/sc.htm) under “Resources” on the left hand side.

- **Gold Star Applications Due** – There is still room, and still time, to apply for being in the next cohort group of schools participating in the Indiana Gold Star School Counseling initiative. The one-page application is available at [www.doe.in.gov/schoolcounseling](http://www.doe.in.gov/schoolcounseling) under Hot Topics. If you have questions about what’s involved in the Gold Star process, contact Matt Fleck at [mfleck@doe.in.gov](mailto:mfleck@doe.in.gov)
- **School Counselor Funding** - Changes to state property tax laws have caused some school corporations to put a halt on hiring or replacing counselors. Remember state rule (Article 4) requires that each Indiana school corporation provide student services at the elementary and secondary levels. It is one of the legal standards that schools must meet in order to maintain accreditation – see <http://www.doe.state.in.us/sservices/pdf/SSLegalStandard12.pdf>
- **If Your SC Program Needs More Money** the 2008 Indiana Youth Investment Awards provide \$5,000 to youth serving programs, including Indiana school counseling programs. Ten schools or organizations win the prize each year and the application is not very long. The application is due May 30<sup>th</sup> and is available online at [www.iyi.org/yia](http://www.iyi.org/yia)
- Revisions are underway to Indiana’s **Article 7** (which governs Special Education) to include Response to Intervention (RTI) and more classroom interventions before students are referred for testing. Information about the new language for Article 7 can be found on the DOE Center for Exceptional Learners website.  
<http://www.doe.state.in.us/exceptional/article7/welcome.html>

Primary changes include:

- Prohibiting schools from using the discrepancy model of determining eligibility for specific learning disability,
- Requiring schools to intervene early when a student exhibits an inability to perform at the required standard,
- Individual plans developed by a multi-disciplinary team, if necessary,
- Interventions must be research-based,
- Parents must provide informed consent if a student is assessed in a manner that is not common to other students,
- The GEI process is no longer required,
- If a student continues not to respond, a special education referral may be made for additional support services.

A comprehensive list of best practices and research-based school counseling resources is available at [http://www.doe.state.in.us/sservices/counseling/best\\_practice.html](http://www.doe.state.in.us/sservices/counseling/best_practice.html)

- **Congratulations** to the following outstanding Indiana school counselors, recognized at the recent Indiana Counseling Association (ICA) conference in Indiana:
  - Brian Lovell – ICA Elementary School Counselor of the Year – Clark Pleasant Intermediate School
  - Roger Spaulding – ICA Middle School Counselor of the Year
  - Rebekah Cowan – ICA High School Counselor of the Year – Valparaiso High School
  - Dr. Keith Morran – ICA Outstanding Administrator Award – IUPUI
  - Jennifer Brodar – Joe Hollis Memorial Award - Counseling Student at Purdue University
  - Chelsea Gorsuch – Eldon Ruff Memorial Scholarship - Counseling Student at Indiana Wesleyan
- **High School Counselor Updates**

- Diploma seals and letters should have arrived or be arriving soon for those schools that ordered these. For budgetary reasons, the Core 40 and Honors diploma letters were combined – but mistakenly, the wording was not changed. So schools will only receive Core 40 letters this year. A downloadable, printable copy of a Core 40 with Academic Honors and Core 40 with Technical Honors letter will be sent electronically to the contact person who submitted the Diploma Seals order. Wording of the letter will be corrected next year. Our apologies. If you do not receive your seals and letters by May 15th, contact Tina Lovelady at [tlovelad@doe.in.gov](mailto:tlovelad@doe.in.gov)
- The state's PSAT contract for fall 2008 has not yet been finalized but we are anticipating being able to cover the cost of 11th grade students in accredited schools taking the PSAT. We will have more details as soon as we get them.

- **2008 Legislative Summary**

Here's a quick summary of many, but not all, of the new House and Senate bills approved the Indiana General Assembly in 2008, and of interest to school counselors:

House Bill 1001

- Abolishes property tax levies for school's general fund
- Creates a reserve fund for schools
- Must be adopted by 2009 General Assembly and approved by voters in 2010
- Requires IDOE to maintain a design bank for school building construction projects and to review proposed building plans

House Bill 1162

- Creates a 22 member body of students to advise the General Assembly annually on issues such as Education, Safe Environments for Youth, Emotional & Physical Health, Substance Abuse and more.
- The youth council meets for at least 3 times per year, holds two public hearings per year, and council members can be paid a per diem plus travel

House Bill 1165

- Expands the federal law for homeless students
- Requires transportation of foster-care students to the school district of their origin – if it is an adjoining school corporation
- Requires school corps to provide tutoring and mentoring services to any enrolled student who is also homeless or in foster-care

House Bill 1246

- Establishes an "Indiana Concurrent Enrollment Partnership" to create a plan to expand the number of students earning dual credits
- Changes the "Career Plan" to a "Graduation Plan"
- Creates an initial "Graduation Plan" that would begin at 6th grade and requires students and parents to acknowledge the students: include:
  - Intent to graduate from high school, and
  - The importance of:
    - (A) good citizenship;
    - (B) school attendance; and
    - (C) diligent study habits.
- Plan must be part of permanent school record
- Adds a new component to high school Career Plan (now called "Graduation Plan") to include:
  - An indication of assessments (other than ISTEP and GQE) that the student plans to take voluntarily during grade 10 through grade 12 (such as the SAT, ACT, AP, ASVAB, etc)
- Requires schools to add dual credit course titles on the high school transcript.

Senate Bill 111

- Technical correction to graduation rate formula which was creating problems for schools counting early grads
- Requires students to be counted in only one cohort but gives schools some flexibility regarding the reporting year

#### Senate Bill 258

- Requires a school corporation to include a mandatory instructional unit on safely using the Internet for grades 3 and above
- Requires State Board of Education to adopt rules regarding instruction on cyber-bullying, safe online communication, and related topics

#### Resources

- The Indiana Youth Institute is sponsoring a series of regional workshops this month and early May on **“Motivating Parents to Help Their Children”** by Dennis Bumgarner from the Chapel Hill Center for Brief Therapy. The workshops are \$45 and registration is at [www.iyi.org/training\\_registration](http://www.iyi.org/training_registration) **Contact Nicole Brock with questions at [nbrock@IYI.ORG](mailto:nbrock@IYI.ORG)**
- **Students with Disabilities Transitioning to College: A Free Conference for High School Educators, Administrators, Parents, & Students** will be offered on May 7<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Ball State University Student Center (Forum Room) in Muncie.

This conference will address issues that are important for students with disabilities as they prepare for college. If you plan to attend, contact Aggie Niemieć, at [aeniemieć@bsu.edu](mailto:aeniemieć@bsu.edu) or 765-285-5293. Aggie will follow up with directions to campus and parking information.

- **Students with Disabilities Transitioning to College** is the title of a free conference for high school educators, counselors (and parents and students) on May 7<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at Ball State University. The conference will address issues that are important for students with disabilities as they prepare for college. To register or find out more, contact Aggie Niemieć, Associate Director of Disabled Student Development at Ball State University at [aeniemieć@bsu.edu](mailto:aeniemieć@bsu.edu) or 765-285-5293
- The Indiana Minority Health Coalition (IMHC) invites you to the **7th Annual Indiana Conference on Cultural Competency on Behavioral Healthcare** to be held on June 5, 2008. This year's theme will be Connecting Communities; Impacting Lives. Additional Info: 317-926-4011 x234.
- **The ASCA Annual Conference** will be June 28-July 1 in Atlanta, GA. Register at <http://www.schoolcounselor.org/content.asp?pl=325&sl=129&contentid=182>
- The Indiana Black Expo will hold a **Statewide Forum to Promote Cultural Competence in Education** on Friday, July 18<sup>th</sup> at the Indiana Convention Center – Keynote speakers include **Dr. Ruby Payne**, author of *A Framework for Understanding Poverty* and Dr. Jawanza Kunjufu, author of *Mis-Education of the Negro: Profile, Introduction and Study Questions*. For more information on conference and speakers: [www.blackexpo.com](http://www.blackexpo.com)
- **Grant Opportunity:** Teaching Tolerance from the Southern Poverty Law Center is awarding grants up to \$10,000 for programs that engage collaboration between educators, researchers, parents/guardians and student groups that aim to equalize students' experience in schools. For more information on the requirements for the grant application, please visit <http://www.tolerance.org/teach/grants/schoolgrants.jsp>

The deadline to submit Letters of Inquiry is May 15, 2008. For additional, grant opportunities, visit: [http://www.doe.state.in.us/sservices/counseling/counseling\\_specific\\_grants.pdf](http://www.doe.state.in.us/sservices/counseling/counseling_specific_grants.pdf)

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Sign up for SS InTouch at <http://listserv.doe.in.gov/mailman/listinfo/intouch>

Find archived editions of SS InTouch at [www.doe.in.gov/schoolcounseling](http://www.doe.in.gov/schoolcounseling) under "Resources"

Direct questions or comments to Amanda Snobarger at [asnobarg@doe.in.gov](mailto:asnobarg@doe.in.gov) – 317-232-9136 or  
Matt Fleck – 317.232.9172 – [mfleck@doe.in.gov](mailto:mfleck@doe.in.gov)